

Application No. 10/019,459
Amendment dated September 14, 2005
After Final Office Action of May 16, 2005

Docket No.: BA1-99-137A (99-137A)

REMARKS

Claims 1, 5-7, and 9-12 were pending when an Office Action was mailed on May 16, 2005. The Office Action was made Final. Claims 1, 5-7, and 11-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103. Claims 9 and 10 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated as being allowable. The Examiner is thanked for indication of allowable subject matter.

Allowable subject matter of Claim 9 has been incorporated into independent Claim 1, and all other rejected claims have been cancelled. In light of amendments set forth herein, Applicants very respectfully submit that all claims that remain pending in this patent application are in condition for allowance. Because the amendments have placed the remaining claims in condition for allowance, Applicants respectfully submit that entry of this Amendment After Final Action is proper. Applicants very respectfully request entry of the Amendment, reconsideration and allowance of all claims that remain pending in this patent application, and passage of the application to issuance.

I. REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 5-7, and 11-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,936,552 to Wichgers et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,781,146 to Frederick and U.S. Patent No. 6,088,654 to Lepere et al. Claim 1 has been amended to include allowable subject matter from its dependent Claim 9 and Claims 5-7 and 11-12 have been cancelled, thereby rendering moot their rejection.

II. OBJECTION TO CLAIMS 9-10

The Office Action objected to Claims 9-10 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated that Claims 9-10 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Examiner is thanked for indication of allowable subject matter.

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Claim 9 depends from Claim 1 and Claim 10 depends from Claim 9. Claim 1 has been amended to include patentable subject matter of Claim 9, and Claim 9 has been cancelled. Claim 10 has been amended to depend from Claim 1. Applicants respectfully submit that these amendments place Claims 1 and 10, as amended, in condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that entry of this Amendment After Final Action is proper. Applicants very respectfully request entry of the Amendment, and reconsideration and allowance of Claims 1 and 10, as amended.

CONCLUSION

Allowable subject matter of Claim 9 has been incorporated into independent Claim 1, and all other rejected claims have been cancelled. In light of amendments set forth herein, Applicants very respectfully submit that Claims 1 and 10, as amended, that remain pending in this patent application are in condition for allowance. Because the amendments have placed the remaining claims in condition for allowance, Applicants respectfully submit that entry of this Amendment After Final Action is proper. Applicants very respectfully request entry of the Amendment, reconsideration and allowance of Claims 1 and 10, as amended, that remain pending in this patent application, and passage of the application to issuance.

Dated: September 14, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

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